

# *Emergency Management*

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

JANUARY 17TH, 2025

### **Brace yourselves, Cold Freeze is on its way! Are you ready to bundle up?**



#### **bundle up?**

Be sure that you are prepared for the weather this upcoming weekend. A few strong thunderstorms, along with a heavy rain threat, are expected Saturday into early Sunday morning. After the rainfall, a strong arctic cold front will move through the area bringing in the coldest air this winter season. While the weather will not be the greatest this

weekend, there is also a very low chance that the rain will continue Monday into Wednesday morning.

Make sure to stay informed by checking local weather updates regularly. It's crucial to have an emergency kit ready, which includes essentials like water, non-perishable food, flashlights, and extra blankets to keep warm. Be sure that you have done everything you can to keep the cold air out and the warmth in. Remember to check on neighbors, especially the elderly or those living alone, to ensure their safety.

Consider setting your thermostat to a consistent temperature to prevent pipes from freezing. If you have pets, make sure they have adequate shelter and warmth. It's also a good idea to have a backup power source in case of outages, such as battery-powered devices. If you have gallons that can be filled with water, do so. By using the gallons of water and taping a flashlight to the very top, you can illuminate a room if the power goes out. Taking these precautions can help keep you and your loved ones safe and comfortable during the extreme weather conditions.

Remember to charge all essential electronics in advance, including any power banks that could potentially help keep all your devices charged, ensuring you have a reliable means of communication should the power go out. Stock up on any necessary medications and keep a first aid kit easily accessible. It's also wise to have extra layers of clothing and thermal wear ready to help you stay warm if heating becomes an issue. Try to stay off the roads; however, if you must drive, use caution and be sure to stay aware of the road conditions at all times. Remember we're in the South, and driving on ice is not our specialty.

Make a family emergency plan and discuss it with all household members so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

Stay safe, and let's weather this cold snap together!



## Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

*Shining a spotlight on the people who make this agency function.*

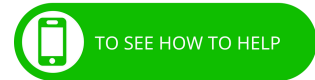
### Franklin County Humane Society



The Franklin County Humane Society might be small in size, but their impact on the community is truly mighty. The humane society prepares for winter weather by ensuring adequate shelter, food and water supplies, emergency medical resources, staff training for cold weather animal care, and transportation capabilities, while also focusing on warmth and protection from extreme cold.

The community's support is vital to the success of the humane society's mission. Regular fundraising events, such as charity walks and pet adoption fairs, bring people together and raise awareness about animal welfare. Through these efforts, the Franklin County Humane Society continues to make a significant difference, advocating for those who cannot speak for themselves and creating a more compassionate world for all living beings.

While the shelter does their job great, they still rely on our community for help. Whether it's monetary donations or physical donations, they will accept whatever help they can receive. Consider donating to help them today; you can scan the QR code, and it takes you directly to their website and shows exactly how you can help them!



### Major Cold Weather Preparations

#### **Home Preparation:**

- Heating System: Make sure your furnace is working properly; also if using a space heater ensure that you don't leave anything around it that could be flammable.
- Emergency Kit: Stockpile non-perishable food, bottled water, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, flashlights, and a first-aid kit.
- Fire Safety: Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms regularly.
- Pipe Protection: Learn how to shut off your water supply and consider wrapping exposed pipes with insulation to prevent freezing.



#### **Clothing and Personal Items:**

- Layered Clothing: Have a good supply of warm clothes including hats, gloves, scarves, and a heavy coat.
- Emergency Blanket: Keep an emergency blanket in your home and car.
- Weather Monitoring: Stay informed about weather forecasts and warnings.

#### **Vehicle Preparedness:**

- Winter Emergency Kit: Keep a winter emergency kit in your car including a blanket, extra cell phone charger, jumper cables, scraper, and a small shovel.
- Tire Check: Ensure your tires have adequate tread and air pressure in them.
- Fluid Levels: Check your car's antifreeze and windshield washer fluid levels

**See What We Are Up To**


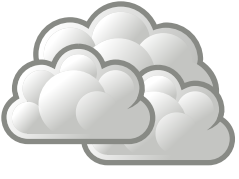



*A glance at the projects that each staff member and prominent volunteer is undertaking.*

- Jennifer Daniels, the Director, has been working on reimbursement for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, updating our directories, getting ready to head to Orlando for our Annual FEPA Conference, and also planning 2 exercises.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is working on updating our finance books and our Survival Guide, and getting ready to head to Orlando for our Annual FEPA Conference.
- Jessica Lockhart, the SPN Coordinator, is trying to coordinate a Contractors meeting for 2025, and taking training to further her knowledge about the field of Emergency Management, and getting ready to head to Orlando for our Annual FEPA Conference.
- Tim Keith-Lucas, the Operations Chief, is refining our checklists to ensure comprehensive hurricane preparedness, equipping our Mobile Command Trailer, and also setting up for Holiday on the Harbor.
- Scott Bush, the Quartermaster, is currently reorganizing the EOC trailers to accommodate a wider array of events, coordinating the organization of the Hangar, and also assisting with equipping our Mobile Command Trailer.
- Judi Ring, the CERT President, is developing educational materials to raise awareness about the CERT program among the public, updating our event schedule, and prepping our oncoming class of Certers.
- Rob Zingarelli, the Lead Radio Operator, is concentrating on the radio wiring setup within the command trailer and is doing weekly check-ins with SARNET.
- The Inventory Manager, is in the process of consolidating equipment from various areas within the EOC to both the command trailer and its supporting trailer.
- Robin Gibson, our Vehicle Inspector, has been diligently checking and ensuring that our county vehicles are maintained and ready at a moment's notice.
- Allen Sanders, the Groundskeeper, has resumed grounds maintenance activities in preparation for the forthcoming summer season and is currently maintaining chainsaws.
- The team eagerly awaits the review and approval of the new building plans by the state Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation.

**Upcoming Events**

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
Oyster Cook Off	Apalachicola Oyster Cook Off	Saturday January 18, 2025	8:00 AM- 5:00 PM	Riverfront Park
MLK Day	Martin Luther King Jr, Day	Monday January 20, 2025	All Day	-
Winter Field Day	Ham Radio on Air Event	January 25 - 26	All Day	-

**Weather Outlook**

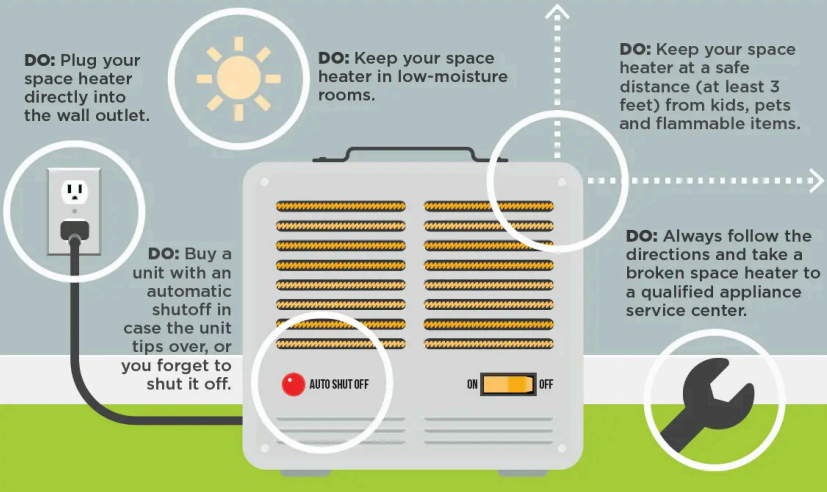
	<u>Sat, Jan 18th</u>	<u>Sun, Jan 19th</u>	<u>Mon, Jan 20th</u>	<u>Tues, Jan 21st</u>	<u>Wed, Jan 22nd</u>
<b>Weather</b>					
	Thunderstorms	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Rain	Partly Cloudy
<b>Temp. (F)</b>	<b>57 / 69</b>	<b>29 / 61</b>	<b>34 / 46</b>	<b>31 / 46</b>	<b>30 / 44</b>

EOC Tip of the Week

## Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

- DO:** Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.
- DO:** Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.
- DO:** Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.
- DO:** Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.
- DO:** Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



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